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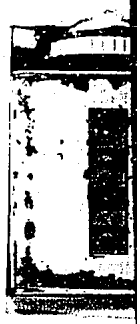

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SOURCE 1952 Jen-min Shou-ts'e (People's Handbook), p 340.

EAST CHINA AUTHORITIES AUTHENTICATE HIGH RICE PRODUCTION RECORD

/Comment: This report describes the achievements of Ch'en Yung-k'ang, a model farmer of East China, who in 1951 produced a new record for the region with 1,433 catties of paddy rice on one mou of land /one mou equals 1/6 acre/. The article, which gives with great detail the thoroughness of the official investigation to verify Ch'en's record, has been selected from a number of such achievement reports in the Jen-min Shou-ts'e as representative of the reporting on these achievements./

Ch'en Yung-k'ang, a farmer of the village of Ch'ang-an Ts'un, Ch'ang-lou Hsiang, Sung-kiang Hsien, South Kiangsu, established the high production record per unit of area of 1,433 catties per mou for a single crop of late rice. Ch'en's record was first brought to the attention of the Sung-kiang Special Administrative District State Farm and the Agriculture and Forestry Section of the Sung-kiang Hsien Government. Then the Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the East China Military and Political Committee in cooperation with the Agriculture and Forestry office of South Kiangsu, the office of the Chieh-fang Jih-pao, the office of the Su-nan Jih-pao, the office of the Su-nan Nung-min Hua-pao, the Sung-kiang Special Administrative District, the Agriculture and Forestry Section of the Sung-kiang Hsien Government, and the state farm in the Sung-kiang Special Administrative District, sent out technicians and officers on 1 December 1951 for an on-the-spot investigation of Ch'en's report. After a number of round-table conferences, visits, and interviews, the holding of a mass meeting of the Ch'ang-an Ts'un villagers, sessions of the Agricultural Research Society, discussions with the assembled leaders of the mutual assistance teams of Ch'ang Lu Hsiang, Ch'en's agricultural production experience was summarized. The results of the investigation are as follows:

Ch'en Yung-k'ang is a well-to-do farmer of the middle class. In his family there are eight persons. He owns 16.1 mou of land. (According to the customary estimate in that locality, his acreage is 17.5 mou.) His family is chiefly dependent upon him for a living. In 1951, his average production for a single crop of late rice was 1,000 catties per mou.

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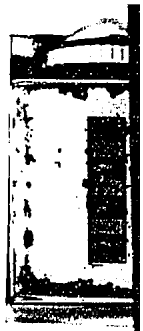

In 1952, of the acreage of 16.1 mou, the yield from 7.83 mou was 8,985 catties by actual weight so the average volume of production per mou was 1,147.5 catties. One mou of the 7.83 mou gave a particularly good yield of 1,433 catties. For the time being, this volume of production from one mou is the highest record ever established in East China.

Ch'en Yung-k'ang, age 45, has had 30 years experience in paddy rice farming. Ch'en attributes his success to the following techniques: (1) double and deep plowing, (2) ample and seasonable applications of fertilizer, (3) seed selection, (4) proper spacing and handling of plants, (5) careful handling of water supply, and (6) complete elimination of weeds.

Ch'en plows twice before planting, the first time 3½ inches deep and the second time 5 inches. His system of plowing under red clover crops and free use of animal manures (chiefly hog manure mixed with some vegetable ash) has resulted in a top soil with a soft, loose texture, rich black in color, very suitable for rapid root growth. In early July, Ch'en applied additional fertilizer to aid stalk development. In late July and early August he made a second additional application to encourage sturdiness of stand, and in mid-August he made a third application to aid the development of long, full heads and large kernels. He used chemical fertilizers as well as some bean cake in the third application to ensure seasonable maturing of the plants.

On the one-mou plot from which Ch'en harvested the record yield of 1,433 catties, he had plowed under clover, and had used 1,600 catties of hog manure and 20 catties of ammonium sulfate.

Ch'en gauges his use of fertilizer according to the soil fertility and the apparent condition of the crop at the time of application. He believes that the correct application of the last batch of fertilizer in the season can result in the addition of 100 catties per mou to the yield.

In seed selection, Ch'en follows the principle of selecting the very best head of rice he can find in a plot and then planting that grain and its yields in a seed plot for three seasons until he has enough seed for general sowing.

He continues to maintain a seed plot, carefully selecting the best heads from the sturdiest, most disease-resistant, and earliest-maturing plants. He screens the seeds to secure only the largest for planting. He also secures the best heads from neighbors' fields for experimentation. By these planting and cultivation techniques he has raised the average yield per head of grain from 120 to 180 kernels. Yields of 270 kernels to a head have occurred. His general yield has been raised from 600 or 700 catties to 1,147.5 catties per mou.

Ch'en sows 5 catties of seed per mou. The general local practice is to sow 10 catties to a mou. Seeds are kept far enough apart in the rows to allow the development of sturdy plants. When fertilizer is short, Ch'en transplants his rice seedlings 5 inches apart in the row with 6.4 inches between the rows. If fertilizer is plentiful he spaces the plants farther apart. Ch'en's theory is that good plants properly transplanted represent half a harvest already in hand. Ch'en sets his seedlings from 0.8 to 1 inch in depth and spreads the roots for better absorption of fertilizer. Comparatively wide spacing makes cultivation and weeding easier.

Ch'en supplies water to his paddy fields 10 days after transplanting. This interval permits the plants to get well rooted. Ch'en believes in shallow flooding, 0.2 to 0.5 inches deep, to enable the sun to warm the water and to minimize the depth of mud for cultivation and weeding. Two or 3 days after the first flooding, he weeds and cultivates to loosen the soil between and around the plants. He believes that these processes are more important than the use of

fertilizer and selection of seeds. During the growing season, he provides shallow irrigation about every 2 weeks. When the plants are 1.5 feet high Ch'en gives them a deeper flooding and a second weeding.

The investigators of Ch'en's methods offered the following observations on his activities.

1. His methods have resulted in an extraordinarily high production per unit of area for Ch'en himself; his neighbors also have imitated his methods with good success. Ch'en should increase his use of fertilizer, adding, particularly, phosphorus and potassium.

2. Ch'en would secure better results if he applied vegetable ash fertilizer directly to the fields rather than mixing it with animal manure. Salt water may well be used for soaking seeds before planting and some attention to cross-pollination will improve quality and quantity of production.

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